

JUNE
2017

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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COMING SOON! Another Location to Serve You Better



As a cooperative, our United Power employees always pay close attention to the needs of our members. Finding ways to better serve our members is a priority at every employee level – and a goal we as a cooperative continue to strive for.

Late last year, a group of employees participating in a leadership program were challenged with finding the best way to better serve our members. Their solution – the addition of another facility located in the west side of our territory. In the May *United Newslne*, we announced the purchase of the 130,000 square foot facility located east of I-25, just south of Highway 119. Expanding the cooperative’s footprint in our territory

bubbled up from the ideas of those particular employees – who spent hours upon hours researching, discussing and working together to produce a detailed plan for the possibility of another facility.

The employee team focused on the benefits of increased visibility, better member access, community outreach, shorter response time during outages and the need for more space that a building on the west side of our territory would provide.

Visibility

It’s no secret Colorado’s population is on the rise – and United Power is located in the apex of that growth. Located near I-25 and other major highways including Highway 52 and Highway 119, the new facility will provide additional presence needed in an area that is experiencing major growth. A centralized presence in our plains territory will be critical in meeting the needs and demands of our members located in one of the fastest growing areas of Colorado.

Member Access

As our territory grows in population, access to our offices is even more essential.

Providing an additional office location in the west side of our territory will create better convenience for members living in that area.

Community Outreach

Connecting with our communities we serve is a priority at United Power and one of the Seven Cooperative Principles. By growing our presence with an additional facility, we’re able to expand our outreach efforts more than ever. As the communities in our territory continue to grow, United Power will continue to be a partner and provide support for our members.

Shorter Response Time

A facility in the midst of a high growth area allows United Power to safely and more efficiently respond to outages, line extension and maintenance activities. By responding from the new facility, crews will avoid 27 stoplights they normally would be faced with if responding from our Brighton headquarters. The location provides our crews with easy access to major highways: I-25, Highway 7, Highway 119, Highway 52 and Highway 66. The quicker we can respond, the quicker the lights turn on.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY
4

United Power
Offices Closed for
Independence Day

JUNE -
SEPTEMBER

Check out fun
summer fairs
and festivals inside
this issue!

We’ll be at lots of
these events -
hope to see you there!

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www.unitedpower.com

Main Switchboard 303-659-0551
Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Customer Service 303-637-1300

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Move Over for Crews

When the power goes out, so do United Power line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, please move over into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.

Stay Safe During Thunder and Lightning Storms

Lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the American Red Cross. As summer arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come with the changing season. Follow these tips from the Red Cross to stay safe:

Stay away from downed power lines. Electricity could still be flowing through them. Call 911 immediately and report them to United Power at 303-637-1350.

Hear Thunder? Head inside. If you can hear it, you could be in danger from the lightning. Stay indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder—a recommendation from the National Weather Service. If you're outside and can't seek shelter indoors, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees and metal objects like benches or fences.

Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Keep a battery-powered TV or radio on hand for weather updates.

Delay outdoor activities. If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game and stay inside—it doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.



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More Company Space

Built in 2006, the Brighton headquarters was designed for 10 years of future employee growth. Since 2006, United Power has added approximately 2.5 employees per year to keep up with the demands of our growing cooperative. As the number of employees increases, it becomes harder to find space to house them. By expanding to another facility, employees will have their needs met and space freed up at our Brighton headquarters location can be used for more training and storage. United Power's corporate headquarters will remain in Brighton.

Since taking possession of the new facility on April 25th United Power is now beginning the process of designing the interior of the building, which will also incorporate input from employees. We are also in the process of acquiring an adjacent plot of undeveloped land, which would allow for additional on-site material storage and expanded parking.

Capital Dollars Help Fund Purchase

Proceeds from substation transfers from United Power to Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our wholesale electricity provider, helped fund a large portion of the \$8.76 million purchase of the new facility. United Power sold equipment on these substations of 115 kV or higher to Tri-State. The capital dollars made from the sales were redistributed to acquire the new facility. This reinvestment of capital will serve all members for years to come.



ENERGY SAVERS

Install Window Treatments

Energy efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds, shades and films, can slash heat gain when temperatures rise. These devices not only improve the look of your home, but also reduce energy costs.

Spring storms are the norm in Colorado, and this year was no exception. On May 18, 2017 a storm blew in bringing wet, heavy snow to the high country and our mountain territory was caught in the mix.

The severe weather conditions – producing over 3 feet of snow in some areas – caused widespread outages for several thousand members in our mountain district. Our Coal Creek office also had a loss of power and radio communication during the storm.

Our crews faced hazardous road conditions, 30-40 foot snow drifts and trees on our lines, weighed down by wet snow, making quick



Our linemen at their best – climbing poles to restore power during the May 18th mountain snow storm.

restoration extremely difficult. Back-up crews from our

plains district, and contract crews from Ward Electric were dispatched to Coal Creek to help isolate outages and restore power. Crews worked nonstop, tirelessly to safely restore power to about 300 members still experiencing outages. Power was finally fully restored by 4:30 p.m. on May 20th, after hours of work in tough conditions from our dedicated linemen.

We understand power outages can be frustrating and inconvenient, and we truly appreciate the support and patience of our members. We're here to serve you and are dedicated to provide you reliable electric serve, no matter the weather or obstacle.

Members Kudos:

YOU GUYS ROCK! I am super impressed on how quickly you restored power in Coal Creek Canyon. I have lived around the country and have seen storms with an eighth of the punch knock out power for days on flat accessible ground. THANK YOU!

Susan and John B.

Outage problems during the storm were compounded by hazardous road conditions and trees on lines.



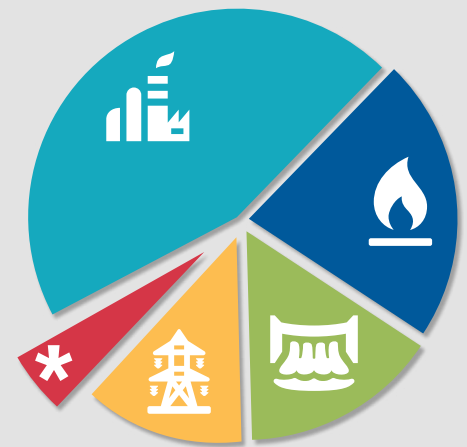
Area Snow Totals:

- Black Hawk — 11.3 inches
- Nederland — 28 inches
- Eldorado Springs — 26 inches
- Pinecliffe — 30.3 inches
- Golden — 13.5 inches
- Rollinsville — 15.5 inches

POWER MIX

Wholesale power is purchased from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Tri-State's portfolio of electric energy is derived from base load-serving coal generating units, intermediate load-serving natural gas, combined-cycle generating units and peak load-serving natural gas and oil combustion turbines, and renewable resources, including hydropower, wind and solar.

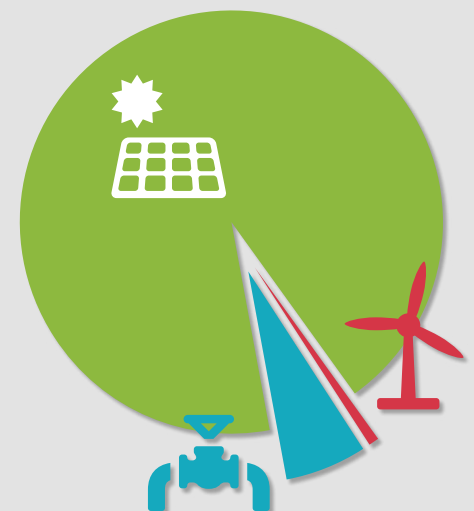
- 45% **Coal**
- 22% **Natural Gas**
- 15% **WAPA/Hydro Renewables**
- 13% **Open Market Contracts**
- 5% **Locally Generated Renewables***



LOCALLY GENERATED RENEWABLES

Locally generated renewable sources include utility-scale solar projects, individually owned rooftop solar, a methane landfill capture system and small wind generation.

- 47,541 kW **Solar**
- 2 kW **Wind**
- 3,200 kW **Methane**

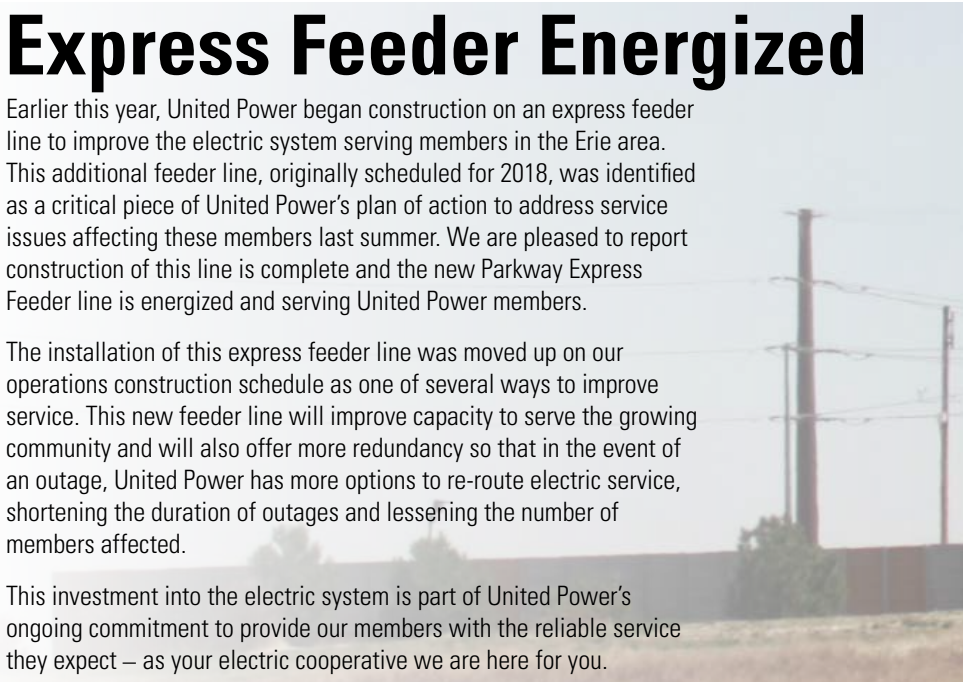


Express Feeder Energized

Earlier this year, United Power began construction on an express feeder line to improve the electric system serving members in the Erie area. This additional feeder line, originally scheduled for 2018, was identified as a critical piece of United Power's plan of action to address service issues affecting these members last summer. We are pleased to report construction of this line is complete and the new Parkway Express Feeder line is energized and serving United Power members.

The installation of this express feeder line was moved up on our operations construction schedule as one of several ways to improve service. This new feeder line will improve capacity to serve the growing community and will also offer more redundancy so that in the event of an outage, United Power has more options to re-route electric service, shortening the duration of outages and lessening the number of members affected.

This investment into the electric system is part of United Power's ongoing commitment to provide our members with the reliable service they expect – as your electric cooperative we are here for you.



June is National Dairy Month

June is National Dairy Month and United Power would like to recognize the local dairies we serve in our territory: Front Range Dairy, McIntosh Dairy, Kasee Dairy LLC, Docheff Dairy, Blue Sky Dairy, TV Dairy, Mile High Dairy, Koldeway Dairy, Lazy V7 Dairy, Rossi Dairy/Produce LLC, Twin View Farms, Cottonwood Dairy, Morwai Dairy, Eagle View Dairy, Aurora Organic Dairy, Dove Meadow Dairy, Ells Dairy Farm, G & W Holsteins and Cleland Dairy.

National Dairy Month is a great way to start the summer with nutrient-rich dairy foods. According to the International Dairy Foods Association, dairy products like milk contain nine essential nutrients which may help you manage your weight, reduce your risk for high blood pressure, osteoporosis and certain cancers. Whether it's protein to help build and repair the muscle tissue of active bodies or vitamin A to help maintain healthy skin, dairy products are a natural nutrient powerhouse. Those are just a few of the reasons that you should celebrate dairy not just in June, but all year long.



United Power employee Erma Martinez, CEO Darryl Schriver and employee Jared Odom at the Lincoln Memorial.



Employees Travel to D.C.

This year, three employees were selected to represent United Power at the 2017 NRECA Legislative Conference alongside members of the United Power Board of Directors, CEO Darryl Schriver and Troy Whitmore, Director of External Affairs. In April, Brent Sydow, MSSE Superintendent, Erma Martinez, Member Services Representative and Jared Odom, Quality Control and Inspection Coordinator, traveled to Washington D.C. to learn about key issues that affect cooperatives across the nation.

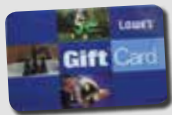
Some 2,100 electric co-op leaders and representatives advanced these issues including, co-op tax priorities, improved land management and endangered species reform, to their state representatives during the conference.



United Power employees Brent Sydow, Erma Martinez and Jared Odom at the Jack Swigert statue at our nation's capitol.

READER REWARDS

June
2017



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$150 Lowe's Gift Card
2nd place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

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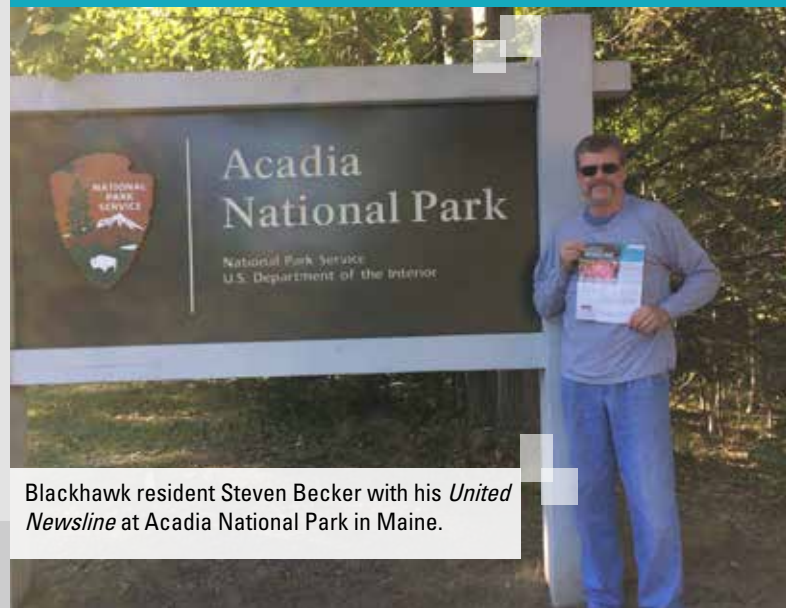


Save a stamp! Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on 'Co-op & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

What are some ways to stay safe during a thunder storm?

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newsline if I am selected as a winner.

UNITED POWER PRIDE



Blackhawk resident Steven Becker with his *United Newsline* at Acadia National Park in Maine.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and we'll send you a gift if we print it. Send your name, address, phone number, and a description of the photo to:

E-MAIL: unitednewsline@unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power—Attn: United Newsline
PO Box 929, Brighton CO 80601

Look for Us in Your Community This Summer

As a cooperative, United Power invests in all of the communities we serve. One of the most visible ways we outreach to the communities is by sponsoring and supporting the many local fairs and festivals throughout our territory. We'll be driving trucks in local parades, sponsoring children's activities at local fairs, and we will have booths at many of these events. In our booths you can find information about our many programs – from rebates for energy efficient appliances to information about budget billing and automated payment programs, we'll be on hand to answer your questions.



“United Power has always been a strong supporter of the communities we serve, and supporting the events they feel are important to their citizens is a great way for us to partner with them,” said Troy Whitmore, Director of External Affairs. “While you may sometimes see us sponsoring activities or performance stages, there are other events where we'll have employees available to help members learn more about our many programs. We work hard to have a presence that suits the event, and find ways to participate that show our support of the communities in the most complimentary way possible.”

One of the cooperative principles, Concern for Community, is the driving force behind our visible support of these many events. Community events

enrich the lives of the citizens in each community and bring a sense of history and tradition to the community. Events sponsored by each of the towns and cities can establish a sense of the culture of each community, and allows them to spotlight what makes their town or city unique. This summer will be a unique mix of concerts, festivals, races and fairs, and United Power is working hard to have a strong profile at all of them. Even our Board of Directors has made a commitment to be at many of these events. They want to be accessible to our members, and to hear from you about how the cooperative is serving you.

“Our Directors have made an aggressive commitment to attend and work at many of this summer's fairs and festivals so they are more accessible to our members,” Whitmore said. “They want our members to understand that they are in the community and ready to listen to any concerns or suggestions they may have for their cooperative.”



Unlike many other businesses, not-for-profit cooperatives are overseen by a member-elected Board of Directors. United Power has eleven, member-elected board members. While all our board members serve “at large” they must live within a defined geographic district.

Every home and business served by the cooperative has an opportunity to vote on their representative, or even to run for a board seat. These elected representatives help to set strategic direction for the cooperative, and give an active voice to the members of the cooperative. Now is the time to learn more about your cooperative and to see how we're supporting your community. Look for us at some the summer's best events – right in your own community!



RECIPES



Winter Salad

- 2 cups baby spinach or your choice lettuce
- 2 small oranges peeled and divided or one can of mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 cup red grapes, sliced in half
- 1 ripe banana sliced
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tbs. white sugar
- 2 or 3 Tbs. milk or cream

Arrange vegetables in large serving bowl. Mix mayonnaise and sugar together and thin with milk or cream for desired consistency. Drizzle over salad and gently stir. Other fruits and vegetables can be added to suit your tastes.

Rebecca Brown, Keenesburg

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power Recipes
PO BOX 929
Brighton, CO 80601

Electric Co-ops Exploring Energy Storage Options

Generating enough electricity to power a small, remote island in the Pacific is an expensive proposition. Just ask Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, KIUC. Importing fuel is not only costly, that cost is unpredictable.

Kauai does have another plentiful energy resource, of course: sunshine. Starting this year, the co-op will offset high fuel costs by purchasing stored solar energy from Tesla. The lessons learned at KIUC will benefit co-ops around the country as the technology for storing energy from the sun becomes more economically viable – and United Power is paying close attention.

KIUC has been ramping up its solar capacity for several years, building arrays and installing roof-top solar. But the Solar City/Tesla project differs in one very important respect: the sun's energy will be stored in a massive battery bank and made available to the utility at night.

You read that right – KIUC members will be powering their homes with solar energy after dark. Even more exciting? Collecting and storing energy in the Tesla Powerpacks actually costs the co-op less than generating power using shipped diesel and oil.

The technology to store energy such as solar and wind has, in fact, been around for quite some time; it's the high cost of storage that has kept this technology out of reach. Now we're seeing that cost equation beginning to change.

The KIUC project uses Tesla's Powerpack 2 battery system, which has been in production since 2016. Not only is the battery technology evolving, the manufacturing process is also changing. Costs are coming down as a result of this evolution.

At the same time that energy storage is becoming more economical, the need for storage is growing. Several reports released early in 2017 show the nation's solar capacity skyrocketing.

According to industry experts, the solar industry is poised to nearly triple over the next five years, with nationwide solar

capacity surpassing 100 gigawatts. That's enough capacity to power more than 24 million homes!

Electric co-ops are trending in the same direction. By the end of this year, the total solar energy capacity of America's electric cooperatives will be five times what it was two years ago.

United Power continues to be a leader in renewable energy integration. Since 2009 when United Power energized Colorado's first community solar farm, the cooperative continues to look for new and unique ways to integrate renewable sources.

Energy storage will help get the best value out of this plentiful resource.

Like the rest of the utility industry, co-ops are closely monitoring these trends. In addition to KIUC, electric cooperatives in North Carolina, New Mexico, Alaska, Texas, Oklahoma and Minnesota have also been piloting energy storage technologies.

When will this new technology ripen? That's the question. When will it make economic sense for co-ops located in regions where the cost of electricity is low to invest in energy storage?

As state and federal regulators, as well as energy markets, look at these developments, electric cooperatives are urging them to keep the consumer top-of-mind.

The innovation occurring in Hawaii is truly breaking new ground; KIUC, Tesla and Solar City are pushing the edge of the envelope. But the circumstances that make the project viable are unique to Kaua'i.

Electric co-ops thrive when they have the freedom to develop projects that meet their unique needs and the needs of their consumer-members.

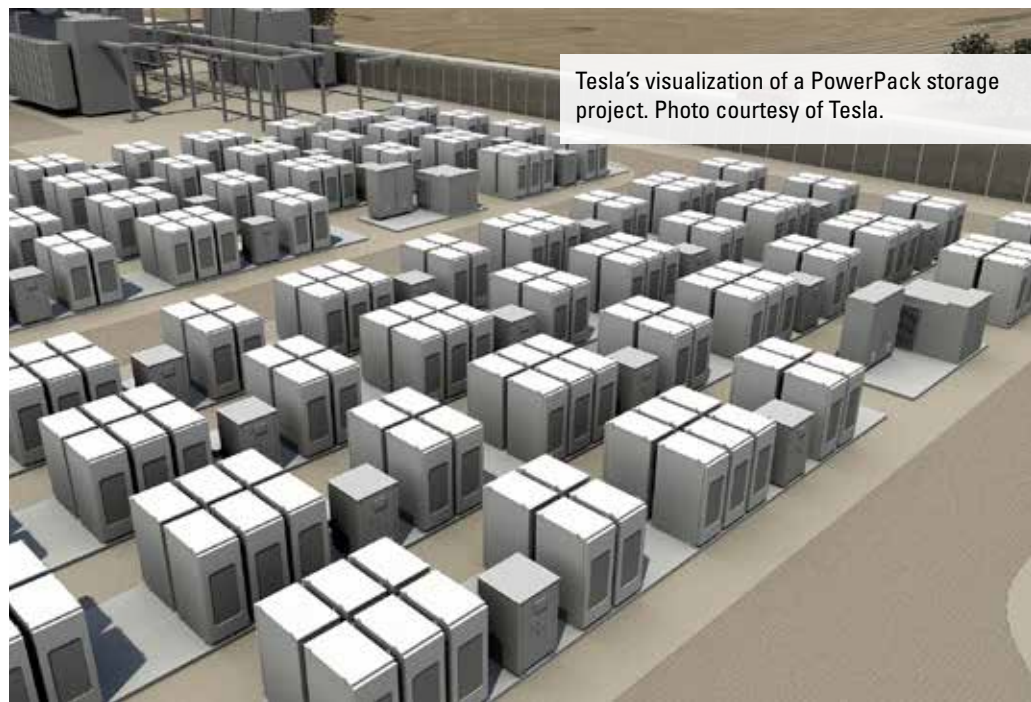
United Power recognizes that the future of electrical generation will be an "all of the above" strategy of investing in a variety of generation sources, and responding to the wants and needs of our membership.



ENERGY SAVERS

Be a Speedy Chef

Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove. And it won't warm your home on a hot day like your oven.



Tesla's visualization of a PowerPack storage project. Photo courtesy of Tesla.



2017

Summer Festivals Around Your Cooperative

JUNE

24 Red, White & Blue Fest Reunion Park, Commerce City

JULY

3	Business Expo & Fireworks	S.E. Weld County Fairgrounds, Keenesburg
4	Canyon 4th Fest	CCCIA Hall, Coal Creek
4	4th at Firestone	Miners Park, Firestone
4	Old Fashioned 4th of July Festival	Recreation Center Grounds, Fort Lupton
4	July 4th Festival	E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park, Northglenn
July 22 - July 31	Weld County Fair	Island Grove Regional Park, Greeley

AUGUST

July 28 - Aug. 6	Boulder County Fair	Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont
2 - 6	Adams County Fair	Adams County Fairgrounds, Brighton
12	Erie Air Fair	Erie Municipal Airport
10 - 14	S.E. Weld County Fair	S.E. Weld County Fairgrounds, Keenesburg
19 - 20	Gilpin County Fair	Gilpin County Fairgrounds, Black Hawk

SEPTEMBER

9	Mead Community Day/Sugarbeet Festival	Mead Town Park
9	Kite & Flight Festival	Reunion Park, Commerce City
8- 10	Trapper Days	Downtown Fort Lupton

Want to see an event listed? Email the details of community events to unitednewsline@unitedpower.com. The Summer Events Calendar is printed in the *United Newsline* in June, July, August and September. If the date of the event makes our press deadlines, we'll gladly include it on this list.

Inside This Issue

June 2017



Employees Inspire Facility

Recently purchased building bubbled up from employees' ideas.

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Express Feeder Energized

The new Parkway Express Feeder is now energized and serving United Power members.

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Spring Storm Causes Outages

May 18th storm hits our mountain territory hard causing treacherous conditions and extended outages.

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Summer Festival Schedule

How are you spending your summer? We have suggestions!

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STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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- Main Switchboard**.....303-659-0551
- Member Services**.....303-637-1300
- Outage Line**.....303-637-1350

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Eva Orozco, Brighton
- 2nd Place:** Debbie Keen, Fort Lupton
Rudy Sanchez, Thornton

See your name listed as a winner? Call 303-637-1325 to claim your Reader Rewards.



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